

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 979

By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Kerri Buckner on her selection as the 2021–2022 Sevier County School System Grades PreK-4 Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest-quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Kerri Buckner is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Buckner has been selected as the 2021–2022 Sevier County School System Grades PreK-4 Teacher of the Year, a most befitting honor that recognizes the positive influence she has on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, a first-grade teacher at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School, Kerri Buckner is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Buckner earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; as a member of the school's honors program, she volunteered at a magnet school in Knoxville, an experience during which she discovered her passion for teaching and building relationships with students; and

WHEREAS, after receiving her teaching license, Mrs. Buckner spent her first three years as a teacher with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, where she taught a self-contained third-grade English language learners class; and

WHEREAS, after returning to her hometown of Gatlinburg, Mrs. Buckner served as a kindergarten and first-grade teacher for ten years at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School; her four most recent years have been with first grade only; and

WHEREAS, during her time in Sevier County, Mrs. Buckner has been a presenter at teacher in-service training events at the county level; she has also contributed to the school system's efforts to create hybrid English language arts lessons for virtual learning; and

WHEREAS, an exceptional and influential leader in her community, Mrs. Buckner dedicates two afternoons each week to the after-school program, where she assists students who are struggling with math and reading; and

WHEREAS, she is most grateful for the love and support of her husband, Dr. Chris Buckner, and their three children, Susie, Ella, and Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Buckner serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Kerri Buckner truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Kerri Buckner on being chosen as the 2021–2022 Sevier County School System Grades PreK-4 Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.